



Combined Family Medicine-Psychiatry Residency Program
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August 3, 2003

Dear Mental Health Stakeholder:

I am pleased to announce the kick-off meeting for San Diego Long Term Care Integration Project's (LTCIP) new Mental Health Workgroup on:

September 23, 2003 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM

Point Loma Nazarene University - Mission Valley
4007 Camino Del Rio South, Room 204
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 563-2818

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this very important meeting to learn more about LTCIP and how you can get involved in its new Mental Health Workgroup. You and I both know that mental health is a crucial part of the quality of life for every individual. Mental health needs in aged and disabled persons are under-recognized, infrequently self-identified, and consequently under-treated. Therefore, the importance of including mental health services within the continuum of acute and long term care is imperative. Your expertise, knowledge, input and on-going participation is needed to ensure that stakeholder involvement in this workgroup is diverse with a fair representation of the mental health and substance abuse communities. Providers are encouraged to invite consumers and caregivers to make sure that we get adequate consumer representation.

As Workgroup Chair, I am looking forward to working with you to accomplish the goal of making a recommendation to the larger Planning Committee regarding appropriate and adequate inclusion of mental health services in LTCIP. The projected time commitment will be limited to six months with three formal meetings of the entire group and interim ad hoc meetings to develop possible options for the inclusion of mental health and substance abuse services.

LTCIP Background: In 1995, AB 1040 was signed into law to create the Long Term Care Integration Pilot Project to develop demonstration projects to improve the delivery system for long term care services for frail elderly and disabled residents in participating Counties. Since 1999, LTCIP has been awarded three planning grants and two development grants by the State Office of Long Term Care to improve San Diego's long term care delivery system. The Planning Committee, formed from a broad array of over 450 health and social service providers and consumers, has developed a shared "vision" and guiding principles for developing a comprehensive, integrated system of acute and long term care services that:

- Provides a single point of entry to care across the health and social service continuum
- Pools funding to maximize resources and minimize process
- Is consumer-driven and responsive
- Expands community-based options for care
- Expands access to health and social services through a single point of entry
- Decreases fragmentation, barriers, and duplication
- Improves quality and cost effectiveness while being "budget-neutral"
- Is supported by case management and an integrated database
- Uses existing providers; ensures fair compensation across the continuum

More detailed LTCIP information is available on the project's web site at:

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cnty/cntydepts/health/ais/ltc/>

Please participate in this kick-off meeting to show your support and to begin taking the necessary steps to accomplish the Workgroup goal and bring LTCIP closer to its vision of a comprehensive, integrated system of acute and long term care services for San Diego's elderly and disabled.

Please Note: If you are unable to participate in person, let us know if you want to be involved electronically or by U.S. Post as we want your input! All interested individuals are invited to attend. Please call or email Evalyn Greb to RSVP and with questions at 858-495-5428, evalyn.greb@sdcounty.ca.gov. Electronic map and directions to Pt. Loma Nazarene's Mission Valley location available at:

<http://www.ptloma.edu/Graduate/MissionValley/map.htm>

Thanks and I look forward to seeing you on September 23rd.

Sincerely,

Margaret McCahill, M.D., Chair

LTCIP Mental Health Workgroup

Clinical Director/Medical Director, St. Vincent de Paul Village

President, San Diego Health & Faith Alliance

Associate Director, UCSD Combined Family Medicine-Psychiatry Residency Program

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Diplomate, American Board of Family Practice, Fellow, AAFP

Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Distinguished Fellow, AP A